

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ACDA-07 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 TRSE-00 IGA-02
AID-05 DHA-05 EB-08 COME-00 DODE-00 SP-02 /070 W
-----055682 280034Z /62

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1223

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PA, MASS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF FY 77 FMS CREDIT FOR PARAGUAY

SUMMARY. WE BELIEVE DECISSION TO SCUTTLE SMALL AMOUNT OF FMS CREDIT FOR PARAGUAY WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE AFFECT ON USG'S EFFORTS TO MOVE PARAGUAY TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE. NOT CLEAR TO US EXACTLY WHAT BENEFITS WOULD ACCRUE TO US. END SUMMARY.

1. WE ARE INFORMED PRELIMINARY BUREAU LEVEL DECISSION TAKEN TO CANCEL FY 77 FMS CREDIT OF \$500,000 FOR PARAGUAY, IN ORDER TO SIGNAL TO GOP OUR DISSATISFACTION WITH ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.

2. WHILE SIGNAL DOUBTLESS WOULD BE LOUD AND CLEAR, WE ANTICIPATE EFFECT TO BE HIGHLY NEGATIVE AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS.

A. STROESSNER THINKS HE HAS JUST REACHED GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT WITH TOP USG LEADERSHIP BY ACCEPTING "TODMAN FORMULA" ON IAHRV VISIT AND STALLED IDB LOANS. HE WOULD SEE CANCELLATION OF FMS CREDIT AS INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT AND WITH THE TENOR OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, AND THE FAVOR HE THINKS HE DID THE US BY PARTICIPATING IN THE PANAMA TREATY CEREMONIES.

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B. THIS WILL NOT BE HELPFUL TO US IN TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE GOP ON INDIVIDUAL HR CASES OF INTEREST TO US (IN WHICH WE HAVE BEEN FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL), MUCH LESS IN ACHIEVING OUR BROADER GOAL OF CONVINCING THE GOP IT IS IN ITS OWN INTEREST TO OVERHAUL ITS POLICE AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS.

C. THE GOP IS LIKELY TO RETALIATE BY WITHDRAWING ITS LOGISTIC

SUPPORT TO ODC, WHICH PAYS ALL RENTAL ON ODC PREMISES AND OTHER COSTS. (IF WE TRIED TO KEEP THE ODC OPERATING, WE WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME CONSIDERABLE EXPENSES NOW BORNE BY GOP.)

3. IT IS DOUBTFUL STROESSNER WOULD RENEGE ON HIS AGREEMENT TO ALLOW THE IAHRV VISIT PARAGUAY SINCE HE WANTS THE IDB LOANS. BUT WE CANNOT SEE ANY BENEFITS TO THE USG AT THIS STAGE OF WHAT THE GOP WOULD INTERPRET AS A GRATUITOUS SLAP IF WE CANCELED THE FMS CREDIT WHICH HAS NO PARTICULAR FINANCIAL MEANING FOR THEM (THEY HAVE TO REPAY THE CREDITS IN ANY CASE) BUT CONSIDERABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE TO STROESSNER AND HIS TOP MILITARY ADVISORS.

4. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THIS MATTER BE RECONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF OUR OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS AND RECOMMEND THAT THE FMS AGREEMENT BE SIGNED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30. WE NEED NOT BE IN ANY RUSH TO IMPLEMENT IT UNTIL WE HAVE A FIXED DATE FOR THE IAHRV VISIT.
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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, MILITARY CREDIT
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 27-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF FY 77 FMS CREDIT FOR PARAGUAY SUMMARY. WE BELIEVE DECISION TO SCUTTLE SMALL AMOUNT OF FMS CREDIT FOR PARAGUAY WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE AFFECT ON
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, PA, US
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